

grain rice aromatic varieties were of tall stature, poor, fertilizer response, poor yield, having long maturity duration and prone to insect pests and diseases. New Basmati types have been evolved by research system of ICAR & State Agriculture Universities and are being cultivated in large areas due to high yielding potential.

(c) For large scale cultivation the variety should be popular with the farmers. The farmers are generally preferring the varieties with higher yield. For cultivation of Basmati rice, seeds of varieties released recently are being distributed under Central Sector Seed Minikit Programme. Besides, State level Training Programmes and Special orientation Programme on Basmati Rice Production Technology are also being organized for extension workers, district level functionaries and trainers who are associated with Basmati rice production.

Suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh

104. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural farmers who committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and till February, 2001, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to find out the reasons for suicide either at Union or State level; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and what action is being taken to help the farmers to overcome their financial and other related problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary action in this regard. As per information received from the State Government in November, 2000, 5 farmers during 1999-2000 and 22 farmers during 2000-01 committed suicides, the main reasons being crop loss and indebtedness. The 22 suicides

comprises 2 in Adilabad, 6 in Mchboobnagar and 14 from Warangal districts. No study has been conducted by this Department.

New Agriculture Policy

† 105. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the areas, issues and programmes included in the New Agriculture Policy;
- (b) whether any special provision has been made for facing the national calamities and drought situation under the said New Agriculture Policy;
- (c) the areas where recommendations made in the policy have been implemented; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The National Policy on Agriculture seeks to actualise the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalisation. Over the next two decades, it aims to attain:

A growth rate in excess of 4 per cent per annum in the agriculture sector, growth that is based on efficient use of resources and conserves our soil, water and bio-diversity; growth with equity, i.e., growth which is widespread across regions and farmers; growth that is demand driven and caters to domestic markets and maximises benefits from exports of agricultural products in the face of the

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.